THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The responsibility for development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Government concerned which also have administrative control over such ports under the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908. The Central Government has a scheme to give financial assistance for development of minor ports in the form of grant for meeting the cost of preparing feasibility report, environment impact assessment studies, hydrographic and other technical surveys/advice, preparation of bid documents and similar purposes. The grant from the Central Government is restricted to 50% of the expenditure incurred by the State Government in a particular year subject to an annual ceiling, at present Rs. 20 lakhs, as fixed from time to time and also depending upon the availability of budget provision. At present there is no other scheme to give financial assistance for development of minor and intermediate ports.

Duty free shops at ports

2530. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of opening up of duty free shops at ports, which otherwise, now are restricted only to airports;

(b) if so, the details of seaports where the proposed duty free shops are going to be opened in the first phase; and

(c) the details of ports that have been selected or proposed to be selected in the second phase from Andhra Pradesh for establishing duty free shops?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no restriction in opening of duty free shops in the Major Port Trusts provided the applicant has taken all the necessary approvals from the appropriate authorities and has also obtained land on lease for this specific purpose from the concerned Port.

(b) and (c) The Major Ports of Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin and Tuticorin has been identified for development of cruise facilities. However, any phase-wise programme for opening duty free shops has not been furmulated.